

American Baptist Theological Seminary, receiving his theology degree as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from Jackson State College.

In 1957, Reverend Johnson left Mississippi for Michigan, and weeks later became the head of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. In those 42 years, the New Bethel congregation has grown from 50 to nearly 2,000 under Pastor Johnson's leadership. The church has moved from their original building to a beautiful new facility directly across the street. The original church still remains, in its new role as the New Bethel Outreach Ministry-Shelter for the homeless, servicing 161 families and 288 children.

Reverend Johnson's time with the ministry has allowed him to develop a strong support network that extends outside the church. The pastor has been affiliated with and has held leadership positions in groups such as the Greater Pontiac District Association, Wolverine State Congress, Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship, and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, to name a few. He has also been honored with an honorary degree from the Urban Bible Institute in Detroit.

Reverend Johnson's deeds in the name of the Lord are as remarkable as his deeds on behalf of God's children in the Pontiac community. In addition to the Outreach Center, he has served as chaplain at North Oakland Medical Center in Pontiac, and has worked tirelessly to aid those struggling with substance abuse. Counting strong relationships with young people as a major accomplishment, Reverend Johnson can often be found working with students and teachers in the Pontiac School District. Many public officials can be found seeking Reverend Johnson's guidance on pressing matters and issues.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow Members of the 106th Congress to join me in saluting Reverend Amos Johnson. I also ask that you acknowledge the contributions made by Marjorie, his wonderful wife of 49 years, who has been with him every step of the way, as well as their two children. Self evident is their lifelong commitment to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people. Our community is a much better place because of the Johnsons.

**SAN YSIDRO HEALTH CENTER—
HONORING THE PAST, LOOKING
TOWARD THE FUTURE**

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Ysidro Health Center and the 30 years it has been contributing to the health of my community. From humble beginnings as a volunteer grassroots program run out of a house on the property where the present 50,000-square foot medical center now operates, the center has grown with satellite clinics in Chula Vista and National City. It serves 37,000 people now and has a budget of \$17 million.

Mr. Speaker, today is a day for looking back and honoring the pioneers who started this

amazing caring center and the visionaries who use this firm foundation to provide even greater services to the people of the South Bay area of San Diego County.

Thirty years ago, Elena Savala and 10 other members of the Club de las Madres decided they needed more than one doctor to serve the 700 residents of San Ysidro at that time. Although they spoke little English and had little formal education, they approached the University of California at San Diego for assistance. In a little house that the City of San Diego donated, volunteer health care professionals began to offer services for the nominal fee of \$1.

The eleven women formed the center's first Board of Directors. In 1972 they hired another forward-thinking and committed health care warrior, Gabriel Arce, to direct the center. Under his leadership, the health center moved from a small trailer to the original clinic, a modern building with six examining rooms. The center continued to grow and in 1980 made an historic leap—it created the Community Health Group, the only health maintenance organization (HMO) in the State of California with an all MediCal (Medicaid) caseload.

Today, the San Ysidro Health Center provides primary care, dental care, social services, nutrition counseling, laboratory services and a pharmacy. Beyond its three primary health care clinics in San Ysidro, Chula Vista and National City, its mental health component, the Behavioral Health Group, operates an extensive countywide mental health network that treats children, adolescents and adults in the communities of San Ysidro, Chula Vista, San Diego, Santee and San Marcos.

Of the center's 37,000 patients, 70 percent live at or below the poverty level, 77 percent are women, 30 percent are children under the age of 12 and 60 percent are on MediCal, Medicare or receive County Medical Services.

The grassroots flavor of the center remains alive—many patients later come to work for the center, inspired to pursue health-related careers by the care they see offered there.

That inspiration promises to continue. The current forward-looking Board of Directors, lead by President Macario Gutierrez, has involved the center in a partnership with Scripps Family Practice Residency Program. The residency program will be offered at the Chula Vista Family Clinic, one of the two satellite clinics. It is all of our hope that some of the San Ysidro Health Center's patients of today will become the doctors of tomorrow, inspired by the access to and commitment of this unique residency program.

This partnership is born out of the California Area Health Education Center Program. This program was established in 1972 to form partnerships between California's schools of medicine and local organizations throughout the state. The program established a special border outreach unit. The partnership with the San Ysidro Health Center allows the program to continue and expand its opportunities to emphasize care for our Latino population and the special demands of health care along the border. The program trains doctors to work in areas which do not have adequate health care coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you join with me in honoring the vision, and quality health care that

San Ysidro Health Center has offered over the past 30 years and that I am sure they will offer for the next 30 years with their special partners. The center's unique blend of commitment to our community and involvement of residents in providing the highest quality health care deserves to be emulated nationwide.

LATINA ACTION DAY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, 1999, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) will host Latina Action Day in Washington, D.C. It is with great pleasure and pride that I commend them for their commitment to Latinas.

Since its founding in 1989, HOPE has remained dedicated to improving the educational, political and economic status of Latinas. HOPE has anchored itself by the principle that knowledge of the political process coupled with active participation will guarantee a more representative, democratic government.

HOPE, through its Latina Action Day in Washington, D.C., rallies several national community, business, and women's organizations to our nation's capitol for indepth dialogues and analysis of current issues impacting the community at large. September 15, 1999, marks the second year that Latina Action Day will be held in Washington, D.C. and continues to be an annual event that brings together hundreds of women for the purpose of educating and empowering Latinas in all phases of economic, cultural, and social structures.

As Latinas assume more leadership positions nationally, it becomes increasingly important to have firsthand knowledge of legislative issues and to participate in the political process.

I salute HOPE for recognizing the value in an educated citizenry and wish the continued success in forwarding their mission.

**GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION
FOR THE JOHN W. KIND SENIOR
COMMUNITY**

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on September 16th, a wonderful event is taking place as we celebrate the groundbreaking on the John W. King Senior Community. Another wonderful event is taking place at the same time with the celebration of the 80th birthday of this important project's founder, inspiration, and guiding light—John W. King. It is appropriate for us to celebrate both of these events at the same time, because this groundbreaking is the culmination of Mr. King's vision and determination. Without him, this project would simply not exist.